aal Affairs Minister outlined the adverse economic impact of the Gulf crisis on the Indian economy. He pointed out that Indian had been affected severely due to increase in the price of oil, cutoff in remittances and loss of exports. The adverse impact was not quantified. No specific request was made for aid (rom the US. Mr. Baker expressed sympathy with Indian's situation and observed that the adverse economic impact on the economies of several countries (including India) had to be addressed by the international community.

Memorandum to the Indian High Commission, Dhaka to ban an Encylopaedia

738. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether leaders of Islamic Stu dent's Federation of Bangladesh, pre sented a memorandum to the Indian High Commission in Dhaka on the 24th Septmeber, 1990 urging to ban an En cyclopaedia published by a Ne Delhi firm;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (c) The Indian High Commission in Dhaka received sveeral represenations, including one on 24 September 1990 from the Islamic Ohhatra Shibit, urging the Government of India to improve a ban on "Biswa-kosh", an encyclopaedia in Bengali published by B. R. Publishing Corporation, New Delhi. According to these representation, one volume of the encyclopaedia contained material which was offensive to Muslim sentiments. Government understand that when this fact was brought to the notice of the publishers of encyclopaedia, they withdrew it from circulation.

Arson and Looting in Kuwait

739. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: |SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report which appeared in the National Herald of September 21, 1990 under the caption "Arson, looting on in Kuwait"; I

(b) if so, the number of Indians who were subjected to such looting and harassment; and what are the details of such lootings; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to evacuate them from Kuwait?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) ID the context of the general deterioration in law and order situation, many, including some Indian nationals ^ were subjected to such looting and (harassment: this included theft of cash, jewellery and movable property, break-ins and forcible entry into homes.

(c) Government of India has taken all steps necessary to repatriate those who wished to leave. About 1, 50, 000 have been repatriated.

Pakistan's nuclear capability

740. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: SjHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD? -

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report enttiled